5th August 1932]

Godavari district, was acquitted in the criminal case launched against him; and

(b) if so, what action the Government are going to take against the Police officials who are responsible for launching the prosecution against him?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government have not yet examined the records of the case.

Mr. C. INDRIAH:—"May I request the hon. the Home Member to state whether any appeal has been preferred against the acquittal?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— "Notice, Sir."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Do the Government propose to examine the records of the case and then take any necessary action in the matter?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— "Yes, Sir. The question will be considered."

Police

Alleged oppression of the Depressed Classes of the Devakottai subdivision.

* 155 Q.—Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) with regard to the allegations of oppression of the depressed classes in the Devakottai subdivision, what steps have been taken to mitigate such oppression;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Joint Magistrate of the subdivision is apathetic towards the depressed classes; and

(c) if the necessary information is not available, whether the Government will gather the information and place it on the table of the House?

A.—(a) The District Officers of Ramnad have taken such steps as are necessary to prevent breaches of the peace; a full report has been called for from the District Magistrate and the Labour Commissioner will shortly visit the area.

(b) The Government have no information to this effect.

(c) The Government have already called for information and will in due course make known the results of the enquiries made.

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"With reference to the answer to clause (a), may I know what the source of information for the Government is?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— "We have received a report from the District Magistrate that some of the allegations were exaggerated. But Government were

[5th August 1932

not satisfied with that report. Therefore, they have called for further information. Further, Sir, some hon. Members representing the depressed classes have made representations to me that something should be done in order to prevent a recurrence of such incidents. Therefore, I am convening this afternoon a conference of some hon. Members representing the depressed classes, such as Swami Sahajanandam, Mr. Srinivasan, Mr. Muniswami Pillai and Diwan Bahadur Arogyaswami Mudaliyar to meet the Commissioner of Labour and myself to discuss the question from the point of view of the hon. Members. The Commissioner of Labour will visit the place and make such enquiries as are necessary about the whole affair and submit a report to the Government, in order to take effective steps to prevent a recurrence of the trouble."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"Why, in this case only, the Government are not satisfied with the report of the District Magistrate?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"Because it did not contain full information. That is why we have called for further information."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know the nature of the report received from the Collector?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"He said he went to the place and found on enquiry that the allegations were exaggerated. As I wanted a full report, I have called for it."

Mr. M. Devadasan:—"May I know, Sir, if the Government did not receive reports about such incidents in the past?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"We have received reports from the District Magistrate in the past. There was no trouble for some time, but only in July last there has been a recrudescence."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"I take it that the Government will give an opportunity to members of the depressed classes to give their own version of the case."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"As a matter of fact, the hon. Members representing the depressed classes are going to give their own version of the case to the conference."

Mr. M. Devadasan:—"May I know, Sir, whether an enquiry was made of the members of the depressed classes into the wrongs alleged and what the Government did with the resolution passed by this House?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"As I said, this is a situation which should be handled very delicately. The feeling between the Kallars and the Depressed Classes is running high. It is alleged that the missionaries are

5th August 1932]

taking sides with the Depressed Classes as against the Kallars. Therefore, the situation has to be handled very carefully. I have impressed this fact upon the District Officers. There was no trouble for sometime until July last. I am prepared now to send the Labour Commissioner to see that cordial relationship is brought about between the two communities."

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" Is it not a fact that the Police are joining the side of the Kallars in this affair?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— " I have no information. I do not think it is the business of the Police to take sides. I shall ask Mr. Souter to enquire on the specific point."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" Considering the fact that this is not the first time but one of a series of troubles we have had in that district of Ramnad and considering the fact that last year this Council passed a resolution that a committee should be appointed and that Government declined to appoint a committee, may I ask what steps the Government have taken to prevent a recrudescence of the trouble, now that it has happened again in a serious form?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— " As a matter of fact, the attention of the District Magistrate was drawn to the debate held here on the subject, and it was suggested that he should use his influence to see that these things did not recur. As far as I could see, there was no trouble till about July last. I am now asking the Labour Commissioner to make an enquiry and to go into the root cause of the trouble and to see what could be done in order to promote harmony between the two communities."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—STATEMENT REGARDING THE HEALTH OF MR. SUBASH CHANDRA BOSE (A STATE PRISONER).

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" Mr. President, yesterday, I gave notice of two short-notice questions concerning the health of Mr. Subash Chandra Bose. In view of the fact that notice was not waived by the hon. the Law Member and in view of the fact that the matter is very important and urgent, I request you to see that information is given to us regarding the health of the prisoner."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" As my hon. Friend stated, Sir, he gave me a short-notice question yesterday afternoon regarding certain particulars concerning Mr. Subash Chandra Bose. I said that I could not waive notice, and give the answer to-day. Mr. Subash Chandra Bose about whom my hon. Friend wants information, I may state, he is not our prisoner. He is not a prisoner who has